

3 / FACT SHEET



ADAPTATION	Making changes or adjustments to moderate and live with the impacts of climate change.
ANTHROPOGENIC	Caused or made from human activities. Greenhouse gases created by human activity.
CLIMATE CHANGE	Changes in the large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures
CLIMATE EMERGENCY	Where urgent action is needed to reduce or halt climate change to avoid damage on the environment, people, and communities.
CARBON FOOTPRINT	The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere because of the activities of an individual, organisation, or community. 'Carbon' is used as a shorthand to also include other greenhouse gases (e.g., methane and nitrous oxide) which cause climate change.
CARBON NEUTRAL	A process where there is no net release of carbon dioxide. The amount of CO ₂ taken out and the amount released are identical. A company or country can also achieve carbon neutrality by reducing emissions, and sometimes by means of carbon offsetting.
CO₂e	Carbon dioxide equivalent is a unit for measuring carbon footprints. "CO ₂ e" allows "bundles" of greenhouse gases to be expressed as a single number, comparing the various gases emissions based on their global warming potential.
COP	COP is the annual United Nations climate change conference. COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and the summit is attended by the countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) .
BIODIVERSITY	The variety of life on Earth in all its forms and interactions. Biodiversity on earth is being lost at an alarming rate. Over one million animal and plant species are currently threatened with extinction, more than ever before in human history.

GHG

Greenhouse gas emissions such as, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide etc.

MITIGATION

Mitigation (of climate change) is an intervention to reduce emissions and impacts and/or increase carbon sinks.

NET ZERO

Achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and taken out of the atmosphere.

SCOPE 1, 2 AND 3

Scope 1, 2, and 3 are different categories of GHG emissions. Scope 1 emissions are those directly under control of an organisation (e.g. from cars owned by the business). Scope 2 are indirect emissions, (meaning the organisation does not directly control them), associated with electricity purchased by the organisation. Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions from activities of the organisation, including travel to and from, emissions from waste and water, and emissions from investments. Scope 3 is usually the largest category of emissions.

THE EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

An emissions trading scheme (ETS) is a tool that puts a quantity limit and a price on emissions. Its "currency" is emission units issued by the government. Each unit is like a voucher that allows the holder to emit one tonne of greenhouse gases.

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) is the government's main tool to meet our target under the Paris Agreement.

PPM

An abbreviation for parts per million. This measurement is the mass of a chemical or contaminate in water, air or soil etc.

Last updated 2024

